

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 03079 01 OF 02 030440Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /015 W  
-----067232 030508Z /14-R  
R 022048Z AUG 78  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2746  
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03079

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, UNGA  
SUBJECT: U.S. ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE UN

REFS: (A) GENEVA 09185, (B) GENEVA 10987,  
(C) STATE 188597, (D) GENEVA 11635

1. BASED ON REFTELS AND CONSULTATIONS WITH DEPARTMENT,  
IT APPEARS THAT THERE IS A LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT  
AMONG DEPARTMENT, GENEVA, AND USUN ON FOLLOWING:

- --THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION (HRD) NEEDS TO BE  
STRENGTHENED TO MEET ITS EXISTING RESPONSIBILITIES,  
AND THIS PREFERABLY SHOULD NOT WAIT UPON THE COMPLETION  
OF THE 32/130 "OVERALL ANALYSIS."
- --THERE IS SOME DEAD WOOD ON THE HRD STAFF  
THAT NEEDS TO BE CUT, IF POSSIBLE.
- --THERE SHOULD BE A SECOND LIAISON OFFICER IN  
NEW YORK TO ASSIST PAPADEMAS.
- --THE QUESTION OF REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD  
OFFICERS, ESPECIALLY TO PROMOTE ADVISORY SERVICES AND  
TECHNICAL CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS, SHOULD BE  
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PAGE 02 USUN N 03079 01 OF 02 030440Z

EXAMINED.

- --THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM NEEDS TO BE  
STRENGTHENED.
- --THERE SHOULD BE A SEPARATE BUDGET ITEM TO  
FUND HUMAN RIGHTS MISSIONS AUTHORIZED BY THE HUMAN

RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC), SO THESE FUNDS WILL NOT HAVE TO COME OUT OF THE REGULAR BUDGET OF THE HRD.

- --WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE VAN BOVEN TO CONTINUE AS DIRECTOR; REPLACEMENT AT THE END OF HIS FIRST TWO-YEAR CONTRACT WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO HRD MORALE, AND HE MIGHT WELL BE REPLACED BY SOMEONE LESS LIKELY TO MAINTAIN THE EQUALITY OF ALL CATEGORIES OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. USUN, LIKE GENEVA, HAS BEEN DISCREETLY TALKING TO SEVERAL LIKE-MINDED REPS, AND TO SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT STAFF WHO HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OR EXPERTISE IN THIS AREA. WE HAVE CIRCULATED, ON A LIMITED BASIS, A TENTATIVE DRAFT RESOLUTION AS DISCUSSED IN DEPARTMENT (POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AND GENEVA) ON STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS DIVISION, FOR POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS FALL. TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION AND TO TEST THE IDEA, WE HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMING A CONTACT GROUP OF COMMITTEE 3 AND COMMITTEE 5 REPS FROM FIVE OR SIX KEY NATIONS IN MID-SEPTEMBER IF AT THAT TIME THE PROPOSAL LOOKS Viable FOR PRESENTATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. WE HAVE IN MIND AS MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP CANADA, BELGIUM, A NORDIC, SENEGAL, JAPAN, NIGERIA

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PAGE 03 USUN N 03079 01 OF 02 030440Z

OR ANOTHER ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICAN, AND VENEZUELA OR COLOMBIA. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS IDEA. OUR OBJECTIVE BETWEEN NOW AND MID-SEPTEMBER IS TO DEVELOP MORE PRECISELY WHAT IS REQUIRED IN THE HRD AND HOW BEST TO APPROACH THE WHOLE PROBLEM. WE MAY ALL AGREE THAT THOUGH THE HRD NEEDS STRENGTHENING, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR IS THE WRONG PLACE AND TIME TO TRY TO DO IT. PRELIMINARY SOUNDINGS WITH OTHER PARTIES, AND CONSULTATIONS AMONG OURSELVES, WILL HELP CLARIFY THE TACTICAL PROS AND CONS AS WELL AS THE SPECIFICS OF THE PROPOSAL ITSELF.

3. SEVERAL IDEAS FOR STRENGTHENING THE HRD THAT NEED FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING ARE THE FOLLOWING:

- --DOES THE HRD NEED ADDITIONAL JUNIOR-LEVEL LAWYERS TO ASSIST IN THE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT? IF SO, HOW MANY?
- --ARE THERE SUFFICIENT JUNIOR-LEVEL LAWYERS ASSIGNED TO THE RECENTLY EXPANDED TASK OF MONITORING

THE NEWLY-RATIFIED INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
INSTRUMENTS?

- --WHAT SORT OF ADDITIONAL COMPUTER SERVICES  
DOES THE HRD NEED TO FUNCTION MORE ADEQUATELY?
- --SHOULD THE REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD  
OFFICERS BE LOCATED AT THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF  
THE UNHCR OR AT THE REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE

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PAGE 01 USUN N 03079 02 OF 02 030439Z  
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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03079

ECONOMIC COMMISSIONS? OR, SOMEWHERE ELSE?

- --HOW MANY OFFICERS TO REVIEW HUMAN  
RIGHTS CASES (AND CONDUCT INTERVIEWS) DOES THE HRD  
NEED?
- --HOW CAN THE ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAM BEST  
BE STRENGTHENED? IS THE MULTIPLICATION OF MORE  
SEMINARS, WITH THE SAME PARTICIPANTS FROM THE HRC-  
THIRD COMMITTEE CLUB, REALLY EFFECTIVE?
- --WHAT, IF ANY, EFFECTIVE ACTION CAN THE U.S.  
TAKE OR SUPPORT TOWARD ELIMINATION OF DEAD WOOD IN HRD?
- --IS IT PRACTICAL TO THINK IN TERMS OF MOVING  
THE HRD BACK TO NEW YORK, OR SHOULD WE CONCENTRATE  
ON OBTAINING AN ADDITIONAL NEW YORK LIAISON OFFICER?
- --SHOULD ANY PROPOSAL ON STRENGTHENING THE HRD  
BE SUBMITTED AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY? WOULD SUCH A PROPOSAL  
BE POLITICALLY VIABLE? WOULD IT BE BETTER TO WAIT  
UNTIL ECOSOC?
- --SHOULD THE SYG BE REQUESTED TO HAVE THE UN

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT SERVICES MAKE A STUDY OF  
THE HRD?

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PAGE 02 USUN N 03079 02 OF 02 030439Z

4. ON THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS USUN WILL CONTINUE  
TO SEEK OPINIONS AND INFORMATION, AND WOULD APPRECIATE  
COMMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND GENEVA.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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